

MDR Tracking Number: M5-04-2268-01

Under the provisions of Section 413.031 of the Texas Workers' Compensation Act, Title 5, Subtitle A of the Texas Labor Code, effective June 17, 2001 and Commission Rule 133.305 titled Medical Dispute Resolution - General and 133.308 titled Medical Dispute Resolution by Independent Review Organizations, the Medical Review Division assigned an IRO to conduct a review of the disputed medical necessity issues between the requestor and the respondent. The dispute was received on 3-23-04.

The Medical Review Division has reviewed the IRO decision and determined that **the requestor prevailed** on the issues of medical necessity. Therefore, upon receipt of this Order and in accordance with §133.308(r)(9), the Commission hereby orders the respondent and non-prevailing party to **refund the requestor \$460** for the paid IRO fee. For the purposes of determining compliance with the order, the Commission will add 20 days to the date the order was deemed received as outlined on page one of this order.

In accordance with §413.031(e), it is a defense for the carrier if the carrier timely complies with the IRO decision.

Based on review of the disputed issues within the request, the Medical Review Division has determined that **medical necessity was the only issue** to be resolved. The office visits, aquatic therapy, ultrasound, electrical stimulation, joint mobilization, radiologic exam of the knee, medical conference with team, physician education services rendered, physical performance test, therapeutic activities (direct), and special reports from 6/23/03 through 9/15/03 were found to be medically necessary. The respondent raised no other reasons for denying reimbursement for the above listed service.

This Findings and Decision is hereby issued this 5th day of August 2004.

Regina L. Cleave
Medical Dispute Resolution Officer
Medical Review Division

On this basis, and pursuant to §§402.042, 413.016, 413.031, and 413.019 of the Act, the Medical Review Division hereby ORDERS the respondent to pay the unpaid medical fees in accordance with the fair and reasonable rate as set forth in Commission Rule 133.1(a)(8) plus all accrued interest due at the time of payment to the requestor within 20 days of receipt of this order. This Order is applicable to dates of service 6/23/03 through 9/15/03 in this dispute.

The respondent is prohibited from asserting additional denial reasons relative to this Decision upon issuing payment to the requestor in accordance with this Order (Rule 133.307(j)(2)).

This Order is hereby issued this 8th day of August 2004.

Roy Lewis, Supervisor
Medical Dispute Resolution
Medical Review Division
RL/rlc

July 16, 2004

**NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION
Amended Determination**

RE: MDR Tracking #: M5-04-2268-01

___ has been certified by the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) as an independent review organization (IRO). The ___ IRO Certificate Number is 5348. Texas Worker's Compensation Commission (TWCC) Rule §133.308 allows for a claimant or provider to request an independent review of a Carrier's adverse medical necessity determination. TWCC assigned the above-reference case to ___ for independent review in accordance with this Rule.

___ has performed an independent review of the proposed care to determine whether or not the adverse determination was appropriate. Relevant medical records, documentation provided by the parties referenced above and other documentation and written information submitted regarding this appeal was reviewed during the performance of this independent review.

This case was reviewed by a practicing chiropractor on the ___ external review panel who is familiar with the condition and treatment options at issue in this appeal. The reviewer has met the requirements for the ADL of TWCC or has been approved as an exception to the ADL requirement. The ___ chiropractor reviewer signed a statement certifying that no known conflicts of interest exist between this chiropractor and any of the treating physicians or providers or any of the physicians or providers who reviewed this case for a determination prior to the referral to ___ for independent review. In addition, the ___ chiropractor reviewer certified that the review was performed without bias for or against any party in this case.

Clinical History

This case concerns a 49 year-old female who sustained a work related injury on ___. The patient reported that while at work she injured her right knee when she fell down a flight of stairs. An orthopedic consultation dated 4/1/03 indicated that this patient's diagnoses included a horizontal cleavage tear of the medial meniscus. On 5/15/03 the patient underwent right knee surgery that included arthroscopic exam, partial medial meniscectomy, and chondroplasty of the medial femoral condyle. The patient was then treated postoperatively with physical therapy consisting of aquatic therapy progressing to a land based physical therapy program that included joint mobilization, therapeutic activities, and therapeutic procedures.

Requested Services

Office outpatient visit, aquatic therapy, ultrasound, electrical stimulation, joint mobilization, rad exam knee, medical conference with team, phys education ser rendered, physical performance, therapeutic activities direct, and special reports from 6/23/03 through 9/15/03.

Documents and/or information used by the reviewer to reach a decision:

Documents Submitted by Requestor:

1. Position statement 5/3/04
2. S.O.A.P. notes 6/23/03 – 9/10/03

Documents Submitted by Respondent:

1. Orthopedic notes 4/1/03 – 4/8/03
2. Operative Report 5/15/03

Decision

The Carrier's determination that these services were not medically necessary for the treatment of this patient's condition is overturned.

Rationale/Basis for Decision

The ___ chiropractor reviewer noted that this case concerns a 49 year-old female who sustained a work related injury to her right knee on ___. The ___ chiropractor reviewer also noted that the patient underwent a right knee arthroscopic exam, partial medial meniscectomy, and chondroplasty of the medial femoral condyle on 5/15/03. The ___ chiropractor reviewer further noted that postoperatively the patient had been treated with physical therapy consisting of aquatic therapy progressing to a land based physical therapy program that included joint mobilization, therapeutic activities, and therapeutic procedures. The ___ chiropractor reviewer indicated that this patient was severely de-conditioned and in need of passive and active therapy to regain her strength and tone. The ___ chiropractor reviewer noted that the patient showed objective and subjective improvement. The ___ chiropractor reviewer explained that aquatic therapy is a very safe but extremely effective way of rehabilitating the knee. Therefore, the ___ chiropractor consultant concluded that the Office outpatient visit, aquatic therapy, ultrasound, electrical stimulation, joint mobilization, rad exam knee, medical conference with team, phys education ser rendered, physical performance, therapeutic activities direct, and special reports from 6/23/03 through 9/15/03 were medically necessary to treat this patient's condition at this time.

Sincerely,